

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 173
By Brooks (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Pastor Sandra J. Hayes on being elected the first female pastor of First Baptist Chelsea.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor those individuals who, through their selfless commitment to serving God and their fellow human beings, have achieved noteworthy status in the field of ministry; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Sandra J. Hayes of Memphis is one such paragon of religious devotion and social diligence, having recently been elected the first female pastor in the 129 years of First Baptist Chelsea; and

WHEREAS, she will be installed in a special ceremony on March 30, 2003, surrounded by many of her closest friends and mentors; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis and graduate of George Washington Carver High School, Pastor Hayes is an honors graduate of Memphis Theological Seminary who earned a Master's Degree in Religion in 1995 and a Master's Degree in Divinity in 1997; she is presently

a doctoral student in Religion and Psychological Studies at Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Hayes has served as a pastoral counselor and has been performing interim pastoral duties at First Baptist Chelsea for the past year; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to setting precedents, she was the first woman to be ordained at Cummings Street Baptist Church in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Hayes becomes only the third female pastor among the National Baptist Convention churches in the Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, exemplary religious leaders like Pastor Hayes are the backbone of our society and are instrumental in our progress as a State and as a nation; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to her remarkable perseverance and forthright commitment to Christian living; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Pastor Sandra Hayes of Memphis on being elected the first female pastor of First Baptist Chelsea, applaud her dedication to achieving her goals, and wish her nothing but the best in her every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared with this final clause omitted from such copy.